

# HUNTING



As hunters we have a higher risk of encountering a bear at close range. We silently stalk animals at dusk and dawn, mask our scent and use game calls. Also, we are often focused on pursuing game and handling carcasses. To reduce possible conflicts with bears follow the suggestions in this guide.

## GAME RETRIEVAL AND HANDLING

- **Immediately remove** carcasses from the field. The longer game is in the field, at camp, or in a vehicle, the more likely it is to be discovered.
- Separate the carcass from the gut pile with **as much distance as possible** if you must leave meat in the field for any time.
- Ideally leave the gut pile in the field **far away** from camps, roads, trails.
- If an animal is harvested by a camp, road or trail, move the gut pile or parts **½ mile away** or to a landfill.
- **Quarter and hang** the carcass in a tree or game pole **10 to 15 feet** from the ground and **4 feet** from the tree trunk or supporting branches.
- If you must leave the carcass on the ground, **place it in plain view** so you can see if a bear is present or if it has been disturbed when you return. Placing large items such as



- branches or a jacket on the carcass so you can tell from a safe distance if a bear has disturbed your carcass.
- When returning to a carcass **stop and view** the area from a distance with binoculars. Approach the carcass from **upwind and make sufficient noise** to alert any bears of your presence. Just because you don't see a bear doesn't mean there isn't one in the area.
- When retrieving meat go with your hunting partners and if possible **approach on horseback**.
- If you detect disturbance from a distance or if the **carcass has been buried**, a bear has probably been to the carcass or may be bedded nearby.
- **Never attempt to scare** a bear off of a carcass it has claimed.
- **Have a plan** on how to recover an animal before you harvest one and use extra caution if harvesting an animal late in the day.

# CAMPING

When you are camping, keeping a clean camp is the key to human safety and is required on most U.S. Forest Service lands in northwest Wyoming. Bears have a highly evolved sense of smell and are strongly attracted to human food, garbage, livestock feed, and game meat. When a bear gains access to attractants in a camp, it is likely to become food-conditioned. Food-conditioned bears are less likely to avoid humans and can become destructive and even dangerous in their attempts to obtain human foods. A bear that has received a food reward from a camp will likely return or stay in the area, and may become a problem for other people.

## HOW TO PREPARE YOUR CAMPS

### Trailheads and corrals

- Store all attractants inside a **hard sided vehicle** or enclosed trailer. Truck toppers must fit tightly on the truck bed. **Coolers without locks** must be stored inside.
- All vehicle windows must be **rolled all the way up** if attractants are stored inside.
- All leftover livestock feed **must be cleaned out** of corrals.
- Carcasses or animal parts **may only be stored inside a hard sided vehicle** and must be at least 100 yards from a trail.

### Backcountry camps

- Store all attractants **in bear canister or bear box**, or hung **10 feet high, 4 feet out** from pole or tree and branches.
- **Lock and hang** coolers as well. Your sleeping area must be **at least 100 yards** from carcass or animal storage. Your food storage should also be **at least 100 yards** from your sleeping area.
- **Pack out all garbage** and leave camp cleaner than you found it.
- Reduce livestock spillage or oats and pellets by feeding from buckets, nose bags, or other containers. **Don't leave leftover feed out** overnight.

### Front country camps

- All attractants must be stored inside a **hard sided vehicle**,

- bear box, or hung from a game pole at least **10 feet above ground** and 4 feet from the vertical pole.
- Carcasses or animal parts may not be stored inside bear boxes and **must be stored at least 100 yards outside** of any campground. (Refer to carcass storage and disposal section).
- All cooking areas should be kept **free of grease** and food residue.



- All garbage **needs to be stored** as an attractant and packed out when leaving.

### What are attractants?

- When not in immediate use, all attractants must be stored inaccessible to bears. The following items are considered attractants:
- Any food – including canned goods
- Beverages and beverage containers – including unopened aluminum cans and plastic bottles
- Coolers and Ice Chests
- Game or Fish – any part of a carcass including gut pile, capes and skulls
- Cosmetics and Toiletries (toothpaste, lotion, etc.)
- Pet food and pet food bowls
- Processed livestock feed
- Any item with a food odor - including empty beer and soda cans, wrappers, bottles, etc.)
- Trash